

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A printing system comprising:

a printing apparatus;

a terminal apparatus for transmitting and
receiving information;

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notification means for notifying a user of
said printing apparatus of information on authority
of the user to use said printing apparatus; and

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a network connecting said printing apparatus,
said terminal apparatus, and said notification means
so that information transmission and reception in the
system is performed through an electrical signal via
said network.

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2. The printing system as claimed in claim
1, wherein said network is a local area network.

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3. The printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said printing apparatus comprises said notification means.

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4. The printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said notification means notifies the user of the information on the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus through said terminal apparatus.

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5. The printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said notification means notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when the change is effected.

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6. The printing system as claimed in claim

1, wherein said notification means notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when said printing apparatus is newly introduced to the system.

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7. The printing system as claimed in claim
10 1, further comprising:

setting means for setting the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus; and

determination means for determining whether to perform printing based on user information or job
15 information included in a print job transmitted from said terminal apparatus and on the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus,

wherein said setting means and said determination means are connected to said network.

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8. The printing system as claimed in claim
25 7, further comprising usage authority management

means for managing the authority of the user to use
said printing apparatus, said usage authority
management means connected to said network and
comprising said notification means.

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9. The printing system as claimed in claim
10 8, wherein said setting means, said determination
means, said notification means, and said usage
authority management means are realized by a
processing operation of a central processing unit.

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10. The printing system as claimed in claim
7, wherein:

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said terminal apparatus comprises:

inquiry means for transmitting to said
determination means an inquiry as to whether the user
has the authority to use said printing apparatus; and

presentation means for presenting the
25 user with a result of the inquiry received from said

notification means; and

said notification means notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use said printing apparatus upon receiving the inquiry
5 transmitted from said inquiry means.

10 11. The printing system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry when said terminal apparatus is activated.

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12. The printing system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry before said terminal apparatus transmits a request to
20 execute the print job to said printing apparatus.

25 13. The printing system as claimed in claim

7, wherein the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus is set for each of functions of said printing apparatus.

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10 14. The printing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises means for modifying printing conditions of the print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

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20 15. The printing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises means for modifying a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

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16. The printing system as claimed in claim
13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises
means for requesting the user to modify printing
conditions of the print job so that the printing
5 conditions exclude a printing condition using a
function that the user is not authorized to use.

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17. The printing system as claimed in claim
13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises
means for requesting the user to modify a printing
condition of the print job which condition uses a
15 function that the user is not authorized to use so
that the printing condition uses only a function that
the user is authorized to use.

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18. The printing system as claimed in claim
13, wherein said terminal apparatus obtains the
information on the authority of the user set for each
25 of the functions of said printing apparatus and

presents the user with the obtained information before transmitting a request to execute the print job to said printing apparatus.

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10 19. A printing apparatus comprising:
a central processing unit controlling an
operation of the entire printing apparatus; and
notification means for notifying a user of
the printing apparatus of information on authority of
the user to use the printing apparatus.

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20 20. The printing apparatus as claimed in
claim 19, wherein said notification means is
connected to a terminal apparatus via a network and
notifies the user of the information on the authority
thereof to use the printing apparatus through the
terminal apparatus.

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21. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the network is a local area network.

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22. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, further comprising setting means for setting the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus, said setting means being connected to the network.

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23. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said notification means notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when the change is effected.

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24. The printing apparatus as claimed in

claim 20, wherein said notification means notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when said printing apparatus is newly introduced to the system.

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25. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said notification means notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use said printing apparatus upon receiving an inquiry transmitted from the terminal apparatus.

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26. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus.

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27. A terminal apparatus comprising:
a central processing unit controlling an
operation of the entire terminal apparatus;

inquiry means for transmitting an inquiry as
5 to whether a user of a printing apparatus has
authority to use the printing apparatus; and

presentation means for presenting the user
with a result of the inquiry.

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28. The terminal apparatus as claimed in
claim 27, wherein said inquiry means and said
15 presentation means are connected via a network to the
printing apparatus, determination means for
determining whether to perform printing based on user
information or job information included in a print
job transmitted from the terminal apparatus and on
20 the authority of the user to use the printing
apparatus, and notification means for notifying the
user of information on the authority of the user to
use the printing apparatus so that said inquiry means
transmits the inquiry to the determination means and
25 said presentation means receives the result from the

notification means.

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29. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the network is a local area network.

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30. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry when the terminal apparatus is activated.

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31. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry before the terminal apparatus transmits a request to execute a print job to the printing apparatus.

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32. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus.

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33. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for modifying printing conditions of the print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

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34. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for modifying a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

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FOOTNOTES

35. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

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36. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

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37. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein the information on the authority of the user set for each of the functions of the printing apparatus is obtained and presented to the user before a request to execute the print job is

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transmitted to the printing apparatus.

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38. A printing method comprising the steps
of:

(a) setting authority of a user of a
printing apparatus to use the printing apparatus; and

10 (b) notifying the user of information on the
authority of the user to use the printing apparatus
through an electrical signal via a network.

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39. The printing method as claimed in claim
38, wherein the network is a local area network.

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40. The printing method as claimed in claim
38, wherein the printing apparatus performs said step

25 (b).

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41. The printing method as claimed in claim 38, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of the information on the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus through a terminal apparatus.

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42. The printing method as claimed in claim 38, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus when the change is effected.

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43. The printing method as claimed in claim 38, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus when the printing apparatus is newly introduced.

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44. The printing method as claimed in claim
38, further comprising the step of (c) determining
whether to perform printing based on user information
or job information included in a print job and on the
5 authority of the user to use the printing apparatus.

10 45. The printing method as claimed in claim
44, wherein said steps (a) through (c) are performed
by a processing operation of a central processing
unit.

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46. The printing method as claimed in claim
44, further comprising the steps of:

20 (d) inquiring whether the user has the
authority to use the printing apparatus; and
(e) presenting the user with a result of
said step (d),

wherein said step (b) notifies the user
25 whether the user has the authority to use the

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printing apparatus when said step (d) is performed.

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47. The printing method as claimed in claim 46, wherein said steps (d) and (e) are performed by a terminal apparatus.

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48. The printing method as claimed in claim 46, wherein said step (d) is performed when a terminal apparatus is activated.

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49. The printing method as claimed in claim 46, further comprising the step of (f) transmitting a request to execute the print job to the printing apparatus,

wherein said step (d) is performed before said step (f).

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50. The printing method as claimed in claim 49, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus.

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51. The printing method as claimed in claim 49, wherein said steps (d) through (f) are performed
10 by a processing operation of a central processing unit through an electrical signal via the network.

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52. The printing method as claimed in claim 46, wherein the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus.

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53. The printing method as claimed in claim
25 52, further comprising the step of (f) modifying

printing conditions of the print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

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54. The printing method as claimed in claim 10 53, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus.

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55. The printing method as claimed in claim 52, further comprising the step of (f) modifying a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to 20 use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

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56. The printing method as claimed in claim 55, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus.

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57. The printing method as claimed in claim 52, further comprising the step of (f) requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

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58. The printing method as claimed in claim 57, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus.

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59. The printing method as claimed in claim

52, further comprising the step of (f) requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses
5 only a function that the user is authorized to use.

10 60. The printing method as claimed in claim 59, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus.

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61. A storage medium comprising:
a program for printing,
said program causing a computer to execute
20 the steps of:

(a) setting authority of a user of a
printing apparatus to use the printing apparatus; and
(b) notifying the user of information on the
authority of the user to use the printing apparatus
25 through an electrical signal via a network.

62. The storage medium as claimed in claim 61, wherein the network is a local area network.

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63. The storage medium as claimed in claim 61, wherein the computer causes the printing apparatus to perform said step (b).

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64. The storage medium as claimed in claim 61, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of the information on the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus through a terminal apparatus.

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65. The storage medium as claimed in claim 61, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus when the change is effected.

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66. The storage medium as claimed in claim
61, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of an
entry of the authority of the user to use the
printing apparatus when the printing apparatus is
5 newly introduced.

10 67. The storage medium as claimed in claim
61, wherein said program causes the computer to
further execute the step of (c) determining whether
to perform printing based on user information or job
information included in a print job and on the
15 authority of the user to use the printing apparatus.

20 68. The storage medium as claimed in claim
67, wherein said program causes the computer to
further execute the steps of:

(d) inquiring whether the user has the
authority to use the printing apparatus; and

25 (e) presenting the user with a result of

said step (d),

wherein said step (b) notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use the printing apparatus when said step (d) is performed.

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69. The storage medium as claimed in claim 10 68, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said steps (d) and (e).

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70. The storage medium as claimed in claim 68, wherein said step (d) is performed when a terminal apparatus is activated.

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71. The storage medium as claimed in claim 68, wherein said program causes the computer to 25 further execute the step of (f) transmitting a

request to execute the print job to the printing apparatus,

wherein said step (d) is performed before said step (f).

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72. The storage medium as claimed in claim 71, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f).

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73. The storage medium as claimed in claim 71, wherein said steps (d) through (f) are performed through an electrical signal via the network.

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74. The storage medium as claimed in claim 68, wherein the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus is set for each of functions of

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the printing apparatus.

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75. The storage medium as claimed in claim
74, wherein said program causes the computer to
further execute the step of (f) modifying printing
conditions of the print job so that the printing
10 conditions exclude a printing condition using a
function that the user is not authorized to use.

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76. The storage medium as claimed in claim
75, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus
to perform said step (f).

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77. The storage medium as claimed in claim
74, wherein said program causes the computer to
25 further execute the step of (f) modifying a printing

condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

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78. The storage medium as claimed in claim 10 77, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f).

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79. The storage medium as claimed in claim 74, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the step of (f) requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the print job so 20 that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

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80. The storage medium as claimed in claim 79, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f).

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81. The storage medium as claimed in claim 74, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the step of (f) requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

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82. The storage medium as claimed in claim 81, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f).

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83. A printing system comprising:

a printing apparatus;

a terminal apparatus for transmitting and receiving information;

5 a notification part notifying a user of said printing apparatus of information on authority of the user to use said printing apparatus; and

a network connecting said printing apparatus, said terminal apparatus, and said notification part
10 so that information transmission and reception in the system is performed through an electrical signal via said network.

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84. The printing system as claimed in claim 83, wherein said network is a local area network.

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85. The printing system as claimed in claim 83, wherein said printing apparatus comprises said
25 notification part.

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86. The printing system as claimed in claim
83, wherein said notification part notifies the user
of the information on the authority of the user to
use said printing apparatus through said terminal
5 apparatus.

10 87. The printing system as claimed in claim
83, wherein said notification part notifies the user
of a change in the authority of the user to use said
printing apparatus when the change is effected.

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88. The printing system as claimed in claim
83, wherein said notification part notifies the user
20 of an entry of the authority of the user to use said
printing apparatus when said printing apparatus is
newly introduced to the system.

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89. The printing system as claimed in claim 83, further comprising:

a setting part setting the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus; and

5 a determination part determining whether to perform printing based on user information or job information included in a print job transmitted from said terminal apparatus and on the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus,

10 wherein said setting part and said determination part are connected to said network.

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90. The printing system as claimed in claim 89, further comprising a usage authority management part managing the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus, said usage authority management
20 part connected to said network and comprising said notification part.

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91. The printing system as claimed in claim
90, wherein said setting part, said determination
part, said notification part, and said usage
authority management part are realized by a
5 processing operation of a central processing unit.

10 92. The printing system as claimed in claim
89, wherein:

said terminal apparatus comprises:

an inquiry part transmitting to said
determination part an inquiry as to whether the user
15 has the authority to use said printing apparatus; and
a presentation part presenting the user
with a result of the inquiry received from said
notification part; and

said notification part notifies the user
20 whether the user has the authority to use said
printing apparatus upon receiving the inquiry
transmitted from said inquiry part.

93. The printing system as claimed in claim 92, wherein said inquiry part transmits the inquiry when said terminal apparatus is activated.

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94. The printing system as claimed in claim 92, wherein said inquiry part transmits the inquiry before said terminal apparatus transmits a request to execute the print job to said printing apparatus.

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95. The printing system as claimed in claim 89, wherein the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus is set for each of functions of said printing apparatus.

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96. The printing system as claimed in claim 95, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises

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a part modifying printing conditions of the print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

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97. The printing system as claimed in claim 10 95, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises a part modifying a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to 15 use.

20 98. The printing system as claimed in claim 95, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises a part requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a 25 function that the user is not authorized to use.

99. The printing system as claimed in claim 95, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises a part requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

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100. The printing system as claimed in claim 95, wherein said terminal apparatus obtains the information on the authority of the user set for each of the functions of said printing apparatus and presents the user with the obtained information before transmitting a request to execute the print job to said printing apparatus.

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101. A printing apparatus comprising:
a central processing unit controlling an operation of the entire printing apparatus; and

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a notification part notifying a user of the printing apparatus of information on authority of the user to use the printing apparatus.

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102. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 101, wherein said notification part is
10 connected to a terminal apparatus via a network and notifies the user of the information on the authority thereof to use the printing apparatus through the terminal apparatus.

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103. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 102, wherein the network is a local area
20 network.

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104. The printing apparatus as claimed in

claim 102, further comprising a setting part setting the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus, said setting part being connected to the network.

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105. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 102, wherein said notification part notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when the change is effected.

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106. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 102, wherein said notification part notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when said printing apparatus is newly introduced to the system.

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107. The printing apparatus as claimed in
claim 102, wherein said notification part notifies
the user whether the user has the authority to use
said printing apparatus upon receiving an inquiry
5 transmitted from the terminal apparatus.

108. The printing apparatus as claimed in
claim 107, wherein the authority of the user to use
said printing apparatus is set for each of functions
of the printing apparatus.

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109. A terminal apparatus comprising:
a central processing unit controlling an
20 operation of the entire terminal apparatus;
an inquiry part transmitting an inquiry as
to whether a user of a printing apparatus has
authority to use the printing apparatus; and
a presentation part presenting the user with
25 a result of the inquiry.

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110. The terminal apparatus as claimed in
claim 109, wherein said inquiry part and said
presentation part are connected via a network to the
printing apparatus, a determination part determining
5 whether to perform printing based on user information
or job information included in a print job
transmitted from the terminal apparatus and on the
authority of the user to use the printing apparatus,
and a notification part notifying the user of
10 information on the authority of the user to use the
printing apparatus so that said inquiry part
transmits the inquiry to the determination part and
said presentation part receives the result from the
notification part.

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111. The terminal apparatus as claimed in
20 claim 110, wherein the network is a local area
network.

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112. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 109, wherein said inquiry part transmits the inquiry when the terminal apparatus is activated.

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113. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 109, wherein said inquiry part transmits the inquiry before the terminal apparatus transmits a request to execute a print job to the printing apparatus.

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114. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 109, wherein the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus.

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115. The terminal apparatus as claimed in

claim 114, further comprising a part modifying
printing conditions of the print job so that the
printing conditions exclude a printing condition
using a function that the user is not authorized to
5 use.

10 116. The terminal apparatus as claimed in
claim 114, further comprising a part modifying a
printing condition of the print job which condition
uses a function that the user is not authorized to
use so that the printing condition uses only a
15 function that the user is authorized to use.

20 117. The terminal apparatus as claimed in
claim 114, further comprising a part requesting the
user to modify printing conditions of the print job
so that the printing conditions exclude a printing
condition using a function that the user is not
25 authorized to use.

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118. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 114, further comprising a part requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not
5 authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

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119. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 114, wherein the information on the authority of the user set for each of the functions of the printing apparatus is obtained and presented to the
15 user before a request to execute the print job is transmitted to the printing apparatus.

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